

10-02-00

A

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

Attorney Docket No.

09792909-0430

First Named Inventor or Application Identifier

Goro Shibamoto

Express Mail Label No: EL370089586US

Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

1. ☒ Specification Total Pages 32
2. ☒ Drawing(s) (35USC 113) Total Pages 7
3. ☒ Declaration and Power of Attorney Total Pages 2
- a. ☒ Unexecuted(original or copy)
- b. ☐ Copy from prior application (37CFR 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 14 completed)
- [Note Box 4 Below]
- i. ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed statement attached deleting Inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
4. ☐ Incorporation By Reference (usable if Box 3b is checked)
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 3b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

5. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & documentation)
6. ☒ Letter under 37 CFR 1.41(c).
7. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
8. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
9. ☒ Preliminary Amendment
10. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
11. ☐ Small Entity ☐ Statement filed in prior Application, Status still proper and desired
12. ☒ Certified copy of Japanese priority document No. P11-279789 filed September 30, 1999

14. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) ☐ of prior application No:

CLAIMS AS FILED

(1) FOR	(2) NUMBER FILED	(3) NUMBER EXTRA	(4) RATE	(5) BASIC FEE \$690.00
TOTAL CLAIMS 20	5		18.00	0.00
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 03	1		78.00	0.00
ANY MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS?				
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO				
TOTAL FEE				\$690.00

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in connection with this application, or credit any overpayment to ACCOUNT NO. 19-3140. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

☒ A check in the amount of \$690.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.

15. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS: David R. Metzger
SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL
P.O. Box #061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606-1080
Telephone (312) 876-8000 - Fax (312) 876-7934

SIGNATURE

David R. Metzger (Reg. No. 32,919)

DATE September 29, 2000

EXPRESS MAIL #EL370089586US

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"



"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number: EL370089586US

Date of Deposit: September 29, 2000

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Applicant(s): Goro Shibamoto

Attorney Docket No. 09792909-0430

\$690.00 Filing Fee (5 claims-1 independent)

Drawings (7 sheets - Figs. 1-9)

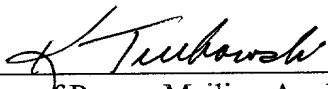
Certified copy of Japanese priority document No. P11-279789

Unexecuted Declaration and Power of Attorney

Letter Under Rule 37

Preliminary Amendment

Return postcard



Signature of Person Mailing Application and Fees

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION

APPLICANT: Goro Shibamoto

ATTY. DOCKET NO. 09792909-0430

SERIAL NO.

DATE FILED:

INVENTION: "SOLID ELECTROLYTE CELL"

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R:

Between the title and the heading "Background of the Invention" on page 1, insert the following:

--RELATED APPLICATION DATA

The present application claims priority to Japanese Application No. P11-280250 filed September 30, 1999, which application is incorporated herein by reference to the extent permitted by law.

Respectfully submitted,



(Reg. No. 32,919)

David R. Metzger
SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL
P.O. Box #061080
Wacker Drive Station
Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606-1080
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

David R. Metzger
312/876-2578

8000 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606
312.876.8000
312.876.7934 fax
www.sonnenschein.com

Chicago
Kansas City
Los Angeles
New York
San Francisco
St. Louis
Washington, D.C.

September 29, 2000

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RE: New U.S. Application for Letters Patent entitled
"SOLID ELECTROLYTE CELL"
Applicant(s): Goro Shibamoto
Attorney Docket No. 09792909-04302

Dear Sir

Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.41(c), I am filing the attached application, including 5 claims (1 independent), 7 sheets of drawings (Figs. 1-9) and \$690.00 filing fee on behalf of

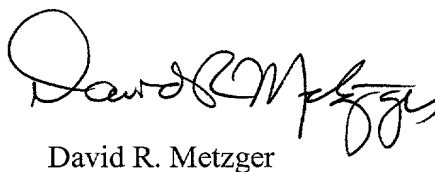
GORO SHIBAMOTO

and request that the application be assigned a serial number and filing date pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b) and 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d).

Very truly yours,

SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL

By:


David R. Metzger

Enclosures

Title of the Invention

Solid Electrolyte Cell

Background of the Invention

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a solid electrolyte cell including a rolled electrode body having a strip positive electrode and a strip negative electrode which are layered via a solid electrolyte layer and rolled in the longitudinal direction.

Description of the Prior Arts

Recently, electronic apparatuses are reducing their sizes so as to be portable and improving their performances. In response to this, the cell as an energy storage source should also be reduced in size and have a higher capacity. A special attention is paid on a lithium-ion secondary cell having a high operation voltage and a high energy density. The current lithium-ion secondary cell uses a non-aqueous electrolytic solution, which causes a problem of leak of the electrolytic solution. In order to solve this problem, a study has been made on cells using a gel electrolyte and a solid electrolyte. These cells have no problem of leak of the electrolyte and have an advantage that the cells can be made thin and are flexible and now widely applied to small-size portable apparatuses.

A conventional thin-type cell has been produced as follows. A strip positive

electrode, a separator, a strip negative electrode are layered into a layered body, which is rolled into a rolled electrode body. After this, an electrode terminal is attached to the positive electrode and the negative electrode and the rolled electrode body is wrapped in a plastic film laminate member by heat sealing at several position of the laminate member or vacuum sealing, so as to obtain a thin-type cell.

However, in the conventional solid electrolyte cell, when the cell is pushed by an external pressure, short circuit may be caused between the positive electrode and the negative electrode in the cell, which in turn causes a heat and smoke, deteriorating the entire cell. Moreover, the existing cell uses a strip electrode having no exposure of electrode collector and when this electrode is rolled, the outermost circumference also has the electrode active material layer which is not used, thus causing a loss in volume energy density.

Summary of the Invention

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a solid electrolyte cell capable of suppressing a damage caused when the cell is pushed and broken.

The solid electrolyte cell according to the present invention includes a rolled electrode body consisting of a positive electrode having a strip electrode collector whose both sides are coated with a positive electrode active material layer and a negative electrode having a strip negative electrode collector whose both sides are coated with a negative electrode active material layer. The positive electrode and the

negative electrode are layered via a solid electrolyte layer and rolled in the longitudinal direction. The rolled electrodes have a collector one-side exposed portion at their one end in the longitudinal direction to be positioned at the outermost circumference and the collector one-side exposed portion covers the outer circumference of the rolled electrode body by one turn or more.

In the solid electrolyte cell having the aforementioned configuration according to the present invention, one end of the electrodes to be positioned at the outermost circumference has a collector one-side exposed portion, which covers the outer circumference of the rolled electrode body by one turn or more. Accordingly, even if the cell is pushed to be collapsed and short-circuit is caused between the positive electrode and the negative electrode, at the early stage, the collector exposed portion diffuses the heat caused by the short-circuit, causing almost no affect to the electrode active material layer and not damaging the entire cell.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing a configuration example of a gel electrolyte cell according to the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a cross sectional view of the gel electrolyte cell shown in Fig. 1 about the line X-Y.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view showing a rolled electrode body used in the gel electrolyte cell shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view schematically showing a positive electrode used in the gel electrolyte cell shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a cross sectional view schematically showing a rolling end portion of the rolled electrode body shown in Fig. 3.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view schematically showing a negative electrode used in the gel electrolyte cell shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 7 is a cross sectional view schematically showing a rolling start portion of the rolled electrode body shown in Fig. 3.

Fig. 8 is a perspective view schematically showing another configuration example of the negative electrode.

Fig. 9 is a cross sectional view schematically showing a rolling end portion of the rolled electrode body using the negative electrode shown in Fig. 8.

Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiments

Description will now be directed to preferred embodiments of the present invention.

Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 show a configuration example of a gel electrolyte cell according to an embodiment of the present invention. The gel electrolyte cell 1 includes a strip positive electrode 2, a strip negative electrode 3 arranged to oppose to the positive electrode 2, and a gel electrolyte layer 4 arranged between the positive electrode 2 and the negative electrode 3. The gel electrode cell 1 is prepared as

follows. The positive electrode and the negative electrode 3 are layered via the gel electrolyte layer 4 and rolled in the longitudinal direction to form a rolled electrode body 5 shown in Fig. 3, which is covered by a casing film 6 made from an insulating material and sealed. A positive electrode terminal 7 is connected to the positive electrode 2, and a negative electrode terminal 8 is connected to the negative electrode 3. The positive electrode terminal 7 and the negative electrode terminal 8 are inserted into a sealing portion which is a peripheral portion of the casing film 6.

As shown in Fig. 4, the positive electrode 2 includes positive electrode active material layer 2a formed on both sides of the positive electrode collector 2b, which is, for example, a metal foil such as an aluminum foil.

The positive electrode active material layer 2a is prepared as follows. Firstly, a positive electrode material, a conductive material, and a binder are uniformly mixed to obtain a positive electrode composite agent. This positive electrode composite agent is dispersed in a solvent into a slurry. Next, this slurry is uniformly applied onto the positive electrode collector 2b using the doctor blade method or the like and dried at a high temperature to eliminate the solvent. Here, the positive electrode active material, the conductive material, the binder, and the solvent need be uniformly dispersed and their mixing ratio is not limited to a particular one.

Here, as the positive electrode active material, it is possible to use a composite oxide of lithium and a transition metal such as LiCoO_2 , LiNiO_2 , and LiMn_2O_4 . One or more than one transition metal elements can be used in combination such as

$\text{LiNi}_{0.5}\text{Co}_{0.5}\text{O}_2$.

Moreover, the conductive material may be, for example, a carbon material, Moreover, the binder may be, for example, polyvinylidene fluoride. Moreover, the solvent may be, for example, N-methylpyrrolidone.

As shown in Fig. 4, the positive electrode 2 has a positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion 10a where the positive electrode active material layer 2a is formed only on one side of the positive electrode collector 2b, leaving the other side exposed.

This positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion 10a is positioned at an outer circumference when the rolled electrode body 5 is prepared. As shown in fig. 5, this positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion 10a covers the outermost one circumference of the rolled electrode body 5. In this outermost circumference of the rolled electrode body 5, no negative electrode 3 is arranged to face the positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion 10a. Only the positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion 10a covers the outermost circumference of the rolled electrode body 5.

Furthermore, the end portion of the rolled electrode body 5 adjacent to the positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion 10a is a positive electrode collector both-side exposed portion 10b having no positive electrode active material layer 2a on the both sides of the positive electrode collector 2b. As shown in Fig. 5, this positive electrode collector both-side exposed portion 10b covers the positive

electrode one-side exposed portion 10a as the further outermost circumference of the rolled electrode body 5. In the explanation below, the aforementioned positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion 10a and the positive electrode collector both-side exposed portion 10b will be referred to merely as the positive electrode exposed portion 10.

Moreover, the positive electrode 2 has the positive electrode terminal 7 connected to the other end in the longitudinal direction by the spot welding or the ultrasonic welding. This positive electrode terminal 7 is preferably a metal foil in a network shape. However, the positive electrode terminal 7 may be made from a material other than a metal if it is stable electro-chemically and chemically and electrically conductive. The positive electrode terminal 7 may be made from, for example, copper, nickel, aluminum, and the like.

The positive electrode terminal 7 preferably protrudes in the same direction as the negative electrode terminal 8 but may protrude in any direction if no short-circuit is caused and if no problem is caused in the cell performance. Moreover, the positive electrode terminal 7 may be attached to a position other than the aforementioned if electrical contact is assured.

Moreover, as shown in Fig. 6, the negative electrode 3 includes a negative electrode active material layer 3a containing a negative electrode active material formed on both side of the negative electrode collector 3b. The negative electrode collector 3b is, for example, a metal foil such as a copper foil.

The negative electrode active material layer 3a is prepared as follows. Firstly, a negative electrode active material, a conductive material, and a binder are uniformly mixed to obtain a negative electrode composite agent. This negative electrode composite agent is dispersed in a solvent to obtain a slurry. This slurry is uniformly applied onto the negative electrode collector by the doctor blade method or the like and dried at a high temperature to eliminate the solvent. Here, the negative electrode active material, the conductive material, the binder, and the solvent need be uniformly dispersed and their mixing ratio is not limited to a particular one.

The negative electrode active material may be a material capable of doping/dedoping lithium. More specifically, the negative electrode active material may be graphite, non-graphitizable carbon, graphitizable carbon, and the like.

Moreover, the conductive material may be, for example, a carbon material. Moreover, the binder may be, for example, polyvinylidene fluoride. Moreover, the solvent may be, for example, N-methylpyrrolidone.

As shown in Fig. 6, the negative electrode 3 has a negative electrode collector one-side exposed portion 11a at one end in the longitudinal direction of the negative electrode 3 where the negative electrode active material layer 3a is formed only on one side of the negative electrode collector 3b, leaving the other side exposed. The end portion having this negative electrode collector one-side exposed portion 11a is positioned inside the rolled electrode body 5.

The reason why the negative electrode 3 has no negative electrode active

material layer 3a at one end is that folding in is performed initially when rolling the electrode as shown in Fig. 7. In the folded in portion, the negative electrode active material layer 3a is a non-reaction portion. Accordingly, when the negative electrode active material layer 3a is formed, this brings about a loss in the volume energy density.

Moreover, the negative electrode 3 as a negative electrode terminal 8 connected to one end in the longitudinal direction of the negative electrode 3 by the spot welding or ultrasonic welding. This negative electrode terminal 8 is preferably a metal foil in a network shaped but may be other than a metal if it is stable electro-chemically and chemically and electrically conductive. The negative electrode terminal 8 may be made from, for example, copper, nickel, aluminum, and the like.

The negative electrode terminal 8 preferably protrudes in the same direction as the positive electrode terminal 7 but may protrude in any direction if no short-circuit is caused and no problem is caused in the cell performance. Moreover, the negative electrode terminal 8 may be connected to a position other than the aforementioned if electrical contact is assured.

The gel electrolyte contains a non-aqueous solvent, electrolyte salt, and matrix polymer.

The non-aqueous solvent may be a known solvent used as a non-aqueous solvent of the non-aqueous electrolyte. One such solvent may be used or more than one such solvents may be used in combination. Among them, a preferable solvent

contains one more than one cyclic ester compounds such as ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, γ -butyrolactone, and the like.

As the electrolyte salt, it is possible to use materials which can be solved in the aforementioned non-aqueous solvent. The cation may be lithium and other alkali metal ion, and alkaline earth metal ion. Moreover, the anion may be Cl^- , Br^- , I^- , SCN^- , ClO_4^- , BF_4^- , PF_6^- , CF_3SO_3^- , $(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_2)_2\text{N}^-$, and the like. The electrolyte salt obtained by combination of these cation and anion is used. The electrolyte salt used is, for example, LiPF_6 and LiBF_4 .

It should be noted that the electrolyte salt concentration may be any if it can be solved in the aforementioned solvent.

The matrix polymer gels the electrolytic solution containing the aforementioned electrolyte salt solved in the aforementioned non-aqueous solvent. The matrix polymer may be, for example, polyvinylidene fluoride, polyvinylidene fluoride - hexafluoropropylene copolymer, polyvinylidene fluoride - tetrafluoropropylene copolymer, polyacrylonitrile, polyacrylonitrile - vinyl acetate copolymer, polyacrylonitrile - butadiene copolymer, polyacrylonitrile - styrene copolymer, polymethyl methacrylate, polyethylene oxide, polyethylene oxide - propylene oxide copolymer, and the like. Each of these polymers may be used solely or in combination with the others.

The casing film 6 airtightly covers the rolled electrode body 5 in which the positive electrode 2 and the negative electrode 3 are layered via the electrolyte layer

4. This casing film is, for example, a damp-proof insulating multi-layered film having a polyethylene terephthalate layer, an aluminum layer, a polyethylene terephthalate layer, and a straight chain low density polyethylene layer which are layered in this order.

Here, the heat sealing polymer film is the straight chain low density polyethylene layer, which is positioned inside when the cell is sealed. It should be noted that the heat sealing polymer film may be made from polyethylene terephthalate, nylon, straight chain low density polyethylene, polypropylene, high-density polyethylene, and their copolymers.

The casing film 6 may have a configuration other than the aforementioned if it includes at least one aluminum layer in the multiple layers, and a heat sealing polymer film at the outermost surface, and is capable of maintaining damp-proof and insulation characteristics.

In the conventional solid electrolyte cell, heat and smoke are caused when the cell is pushed and broken. It is considered that when the rolled electrode body is pushed and short-circuit is caused between the positive electrode and the negative electrode in the cell, this causes a heat, which in turn causes a reaction, causing smoke.

In the gel electrolyte cell 1 having the aforementioned configuration according to the present invention, the end portion of the electrode which is positioned at the outermost circumference is the positive electrode collector exposed portion 10, which covers more than one turn of the outer circumference of the rolled electrode body 5. Accordingly, even if the cell is pushed and broken to short-circuit between the positive

electrode 2 and the negative electrode 3, at the initial stage, the positive electrode collector exposed portion 10 diffuses the heat caused by the short-circuit, causing almost no affect to the electrode active material layer and not damaging the entire cell.

Furthermore, in the gel electrolyte cell 1, the positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion 10a is covered from outside by the positive electrode collector both-side exposed portion 10b. Accordingly, the heat is diffused further effectively, enabling to further enhance the reliability.

Next, explanation will be given on the production method of the gel electrolyte cell 1.

Firstly, the positive electrode 2 is prepared as follows. The positive electrode composite agent containing the positive electrode active material, the conductive material, and the binder is uniformly applied onto a metal foil such as an aluminum foil serving as the positive electrode collector 2b and dried to form the positive electrode active material layer 2a. Thus, a positive electrode sheet is complete. The binder of the positive electrode composite agent may be a known binder, or an additive can be added to the aforementioned positive electrode composite agent.

When the positive electrode composite agent is applied to the positive electrode collector 2b, as shown in Fig. 4, no positive electrode composite agent is applied to one side of an end portion of the positive electrode collector 2b, so as to serve as the positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion 10a. When the rolled electrode body 5 is prepared, the positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion 10a is

positioned on the outer circumference of the rolled electrode body 5.

Furthermore, this positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion 10a has one end where no positive electrode composite agent is applied to either side. This end is defined as the positive electrode collector both-side exposed portion 10b. When the rolled electrode body 5 is prepared, this positive electrode collector both-side exposed portion 10b is positioned at the outer circumference of the rolled electrode body 5.

Next, the gel electrolyte layer 4 is formed on the positive electrode sheet. In order to form the gel electrolyte layer 4, firstly, an electrolyte salt is solved in a non-aqueous solvent to prepare a non-aqueous electrolytic solution. A matrix polymer is added to this non-aqueous electrolytic solution and agitated sufficiently to solve the matrix polymer to obtain a sol electrolytic solution.

Next, a predetermined amount of this electrolytic solution is applied to the positive electrode sheet and cooled at the room temperature so that the matrix polymer is gelated and the gel electrolyte layer 4 is formed on the positive electrode active material 2a and the positive electrode collector exposed portion 10.

Next, the positive electrode sheet having the gel electrolyte layer 4 is cut into a strip. The positive electrode active material layer 2a is removed from the gel electrolyte layer 4 where the positive electrode lead is to be welded, and an aluminum lead, for example, is welded to this portion so as to serve as the positive electrode terminal 7. Thus, a strip positive electrode 2 having the gel electrolyte layer 4 is

complete.

Moreover, the negative electrode 3 is prepared as follows. The negative electrode composite agent containing the negative electrode active material, the conductive material, and the binder is uniformly applied onto a metal foil such as a copper foil serving as the negative electrode collector 3b and dried to form the negative electrode active material layer 3a. Thus, a negative electrode sheet is complete. The binder of the negative electrode composite agent may be a known binder, or an additive can be added to the aforementioned negative electrode composite agent.

When the negative electrode composite agent is applied to the negative electrode collector 3b, as shown in Fig. 6, no negative electrode composite agent is applied to one side of an end portion of the negative electrode collector 3b, so as to serve as the negative electrode collector one-side exposed portion 11a. When the rolled electrode body 5 is prepared, the negative electrode collector one-side exposed portion 11a is positioned on the inner circumference of the rolled electrode body 5.

Next, the gel electrolyte layer 4 is formed on the negative electrode sheet. In order to form the gel electrolyte layer 4, firstly, a predetermined amount of the electrolytic solution prepared in the same way as the aforementioned is applied to the negative electrode active material layer 3a and cooled at the room temperature so that the matrix polymer is gelated and the gel electrolyte layer 4 is formed on the negative electrode active material 3a and the negative electrode collector one-side exposed

portion 11a.

Next, the negative electrode sheet having the gel electrolyte layer 4 is cut into a strip. The negative electrode active material layer 3a is removed from the gel electrolyte layer 4 where the negative electrode lead is to be welded, and a nickel lead, for example, is welded to this portion so as to serve as the negative electrode terminal 8. Thus, a strip negative electrode 3 having the gel electrolyte layer 4 is complete.

The strip positive electrode 2 and the strip negative electrode 3 thus prepared are attached to each other in such a manner that the gel electrolyte layers 4 oppose to each other and are pressed to obtain a layered electrode body. Furthermore, this layered electrode body is rolled in the longitudinal direction to obtain the rolled electrode body 5. Here, as shown in Fig. 5, the positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion 10a covers the outer circumference of the rolled electrode body 5 by one turn or more. Furthermore, the positive electrode collector both-side exposed portion 10b covers the positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion 10a by one turn or more.

Lastly, this rolled electrode body 5 is packed in a casing film 6 made from an insulating material and the positive electrode terminal 7 and the negative electrode terminal 8 are inserted into the sealing portion, thus completing the gel electrolyte cell 1.

It should be noted that in the gel electrolyte cell 1 according to the present embodiment, as shown in Fig. 8, the negative electrode 3 may have a negative

electrode collector both-side exposed portion 11b at the other end in the longitudinal direction. The end portion having this negative electrode collector both-side exposed portion 11b is positioned at the outer circumference of the rolled electrode body 5. As shown in fig. 9, this negative electrode collector both-side exposed portion 11b is sandwiched between the positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion 10a and the positive electrode both-side exposed portion 10b when rolled.

In the aforementioned gel electrolyte cell 1, the electrode end portion positioned on the outermost circumference has a collector exposed portion, which covers the outer circumference of the rolled electrode body 5 by one turn or more. Accordingly, even if the cell is pushed and collapsed, firstly short-circuit is caused between the positive electrode collector exposed portion 10 and the negative electrode collector both-side exposed portion 11b. In this gel electrolyte cell 1, the positive electrode collector exposed portion 10 and the negative electrode collector both-side exposed portion 11b diffuses the heat generated by short-circuit and the heat has almost no affect to the electrode active material layer. Thus, no damage is caused in the entire cell.

The aforementioned gel electrolyte cell 1 according to the present embodiment may have a cylindrical shape, angular shape, and the like and is not limited to a particular shape. Moreover, the gel electrolyte cell 1 may be a thin-type or large-size type and is not limited to a particular size.

It should be noted that the aforementioned embodiment has been explained on

the gel electrolyte cell 1 containing a swelling solvent and using a gel solid electrolyte, but the present invention is not to be limited to this. The present invention can also be applied to a solid electrolyte cell not containing a swelling solvent. Moreover, the present invention can also be applied to a secondary cell.

Examples

A solid electrolyte cell having the aforementioned configuration was actually produced to confirm the effects of the present invention through a collapse test.

[Example 1]

Firstly, a positive electrode was prepared as follows.

Firstly, 0.5 mol of lithium carbonate and 1 mol of cobalt carbonate were mixed and sintered in the air at 900°C for 5 hours to obtain LiCoO_2 to be used as a positive electrode active material. 91 weight parts of this LiCoO_2 , 6 weight parts of graphite as the conductive material, and 3 weight parts of polyvinylidene fluoride as the binder were mixed and dispersed in N-methylpyrrolidone into a slurry state. This slurry was uniformly applied to both sides of a positive electrode collector made from an aluminum foil having a thickness of 20 μm and dried to form a positive electrode active material layer.

When the positive electrode composite agent was applied to the positive electrode collector, one side of an end portion of the positive electrode collector was left un-coated so as to serve as the positive electrode collector one-side exposed

portion, which is positioned at an outer circumference when the electrode is rolled into a rolled electrode body. The positive electrode composite agent applied to the positive electrode collector was dried and pressed by a roll press to obtain a positive electrode sheet.

A gel electrolyte layer was formed on the positive electrode sheet as follows. Firstly, 42.5 weight parts of ethylene carbonate, 42.5 weight parts of propylene carbonate, and 15 weight parts of LiPF_6 were mixed to obtain a plastic agent. 30 weight parts of this plastic agent as the matrix polymer, 10 weight parts of vinylidene fluoride and hexafluoropropylene copolymerized with a polymerization ratio of 97 : 3, and 60 weight parts tetrahydrofuran were mixed and solved to obtain a sol electrolytic solution.

Next, the electrolytic solution was uniformly applied to the positive electrode sheet and dried to eliminate tetrahydrofuran. Next, the positive electrode was turned back and the electrolytic solution was applied onto the other side of the positive electrode and dried. Thus, a gel electrolyte layer having a thickness of $12.5\ \mu\text{m}$ was formed on the both sides of the positive electrode sheet.

The positive electrode sheet having the gel electrolyte layers was cut into a strip. The gel electrolyte layer and the positive electrode active material layer were removed from a lead welding portion and an aluminum lead was welded to that portion to serve as a positive electrode terminal. Thus, the positive electrode was complete.

The positive electrode thus obtained has at its one end in the longitudinal

direction the positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion where the other surface of the positive electrode collector is exposed. This end having the positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion is positioned at an outer circumference when a rolled electrode body is formed.

Next, a negative electrode was prepared as follows.

Firstly, 90 weight parts of graphite and 10 weight parts of polyvinylidene fluoride were mixed and dispersed in N-methylpyrrolidone to obtain a slurry. This slurry was uniformly applied to both sides of a negative electrode collector made from a copper foil having a thickness of 10 μm and dried to form a negative electrode active material layer. After dried, the negative electrode collector having the negative electrode active material layer was pressed by a roll press into a negative electrode sheet.

Next, a gel electrolyte layer was formed on the negative electrode sheet as follows. The electrolytic solution prepared in the same was as the aforementioned was uniformly applied to both sides of the negative electrode sheet and dried to eliminate tetrahydrofuran. Thus, a gel electrolyte layer having a thickness of 12.5 μm was formed on the both sides of the negative electrode sheet.

The negative electrode sheet having the gel electrolyte layers was cut into a strip. The gel electrolyte layer and the negative electrode active material layer were removed from a lead welding portion and a nickel lead was welded to that portion to serve as a negative electrode terminal. Thus, the negative electrode was complete.

Next, the strip positive electrode having the gel electrolyte layer on its both sides and the strip negative electrode having the gel electrolyte layer on its both sides were layered into a layered body. The layered body was rolled in the longitudinal direction in such a manner that the positive electrode is at an outer position and the negative electrode is in an inner position, so as to obtain a rolled electrode body. Here, the positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion covers the outer circumference of the rolled electrode body by one turn or more.

Lastly, the rolled electrode body is sandwiched between casing films consisting of a nylon layer of 25 μm thickness, an aluminum layer of 40 μm thickness, and a polypropylene layer of 30 μm thickness layered in this order from the outside. The peripheral ends of the casing film were heat sealed under a reduced pressure so as to seal the rolled electrode body in the casing film airtightly. It should be noted that the positive electrode terminal and the negative electrode terminal were inserted in the film sealing portion. Thus, the gel electrolyte cell was complete.

[Example 2]

In Example 2, a positive electrode was prepared as follows.

Firstly, a positive electrode composite agent slurry was prepared in the same way as Example 1, and this slurry was uniformly applied to both sides of a positive electrode collector made from an aluminum foil having a thickness of 20 μm and dried to form a positive electrode active material layer.

When the positive electrode composite agent was applied to the positive

electrode collector, one side of an end portion of the positive electrode collector was left un-coated so as to serve as the positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion. This positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion is to be positioned at an outer circumference when the electrode is rolled into a rolled electrode body. Furthermore, adjacent to this positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion, there was arranged a positive electrode collector both-side exposed portion where no positive electrode composite agent was applied to either sides. This positive electrode collector both-side exposed portion is to be positioned at an outer circumference when a rolled electrode body is prepared. The positive electrode collector having the positive electrode composite agent layers was dried and pressed by a roll press to obtain a positive electrode sheet.

Next, a gel electrolyte layer was formed on the positive electrode sheet as follows. The electrolytic solution prepared in the same way as Example 1 was uniformly applied to both sides of the positive electrode sheet and dried to eliminate tetrahydrofuran. Thus, a gel electrolyte layer having a thickness of 12.5 μm was formed on the both sides of the positive electrode sheet.

The positive electrode sheet having the gel electrolyte layers was cut into a strip. The gel electrolyte layer and the positive electrode active material layer were removed from a lead welding portion and an aluminum lead was welded to that portion to serve as a positive electrode terminal. Thus, the positive electrode was complete.

The positive electrode thus obtained has at its one end in the longitudinal

direction the positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion where the other surface of the positive electrode collector is exposed. This end having the positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion is positioned at an outer circumference when a rolled electrode body is formed. Furthermore, the end portion of the positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion to be positioned at an outer circumference when rolled is a positive electrode collector both-side exposed portion where the both sides of the positive electrode collector are exposed. The positive electrode collector both-side exposed portion covers the positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion by one turn or more.

A gel electrolyte cell was completed in the same way as Example 1 except for that the positive electrode prepared as the aforementioned was used.

In the rolled electrode body of the gel electrolyte cell, the positive electrode collector one-side exposed portion covers the outer circumference of the rolled electrode body by one turn or more, which is further covered by the positive electrode collector both-side exposed portion by one turn or more.

[Example 3]

In Example 3, a negative electrode was prepared as follows.

Firstly, a negative electrode composite agent slurry was prepared in the same way as Example 1, and this negative electrode composite slurry was uniformly applied to both sides of a negative electrode collector and dried to form a negative electrode active material layer.

When the negative electrode composite agent was applied to the negative electrode collector, one side of an end portion of the negative electrode collector was left un-coated so as to serve as the negative electrode collector one-side exposed portion. This negative electrode collector one-side exposed portion is to be positioned at an inner circumference when the electrode is rolled into a rolled electrode body. The negative electrode collector having the negative electrode composite agent layers was dried and pressed by a roll press to obtain a negative electrode sheet.

Next, a gel electrolyte layer was formed on the negative electrode sheet as follows. The electrolytic solution prepared in the same way as Example 1 was uniformly applied to both sides of the negative electrode sheet and dried to eliminate tetrahydrofuran. Thus, a gel electrolyte layer having a thickness of 12.5 μm was formed on the negative electrode sheet.

The negative electrode sheet having the gel electrolyte layers was cut into a strip. The gel electrolyte layer and the negative electrode active material layer were removed from a lead welding portion and a nickel lead was welded to that portion to serve as a negative electrode terminal. Thus, the negative electrode was complete.

The negative electrode thus obtained has at its one end in the longitudinal direction the negative electrode collector one-side exposed portion where the other surface of the negative electrode collector is exposed. This end having the negative electrode collector one-side exposed portion is positioned at an inner circumference when a rolled electrode body is formed.

A gel electrolyte cell was completed in the same way as Example 1 except for that the negative electrode prepared as the aforementioned was used.

In the rolled electrode body of the gel electrolyte cell, the negative electrode collector one-side exposed portion covers the inner circumference of the rolled electrode body by one turn or more.

[Example 4]

In Example 4, a positive electrode and a negative electrode were prepared as follows.

Firstly, a positive electrode composite agent slurry was prepared in the same way as Example 1, and this slurry was uniformly applied to both sides of a positive electrode collector and dried to form a positive electrode active material layer.

When the positive electrode composite agent was applied to the positive electrode collector, there was arranged a positive electrode collector both-side exposed portion where no positive electrode composite agent was applied to either sides. This positive electrode collector both-side exposed portion is to be positioned at an outer circumference when a rolled electrode body is prepared. The positive electrode collector having the positive electrode composite agent layers was dried and pressed by a roll press to obtain a positive electrode sheet.

Next, a gel electrolyte layer was formed on the positive electrode sheet as follows. The electrolytic solution prepared in the same way as Example 1 was uniformly applied to both sides of the positive electrode sheet and dried to eliminate

tetrahydrofuran. Thus, a gel electrolyte layer having a thickness of 12.5 μm was formed on the positive electrode sheet.

The positive electrode sheet having the gel electrolyte layers was cut into a strip. The gel electrolyte layer and the positive electrode active material layer were removed from a lead welding portion and an aluminum lead was welded to that portion to serve as a positive electrode terminal. Thus, the positive electrode was complete.

The positive electrode thus obtained has at its one end in the longitudinal direction the positive electrode collector both-side exposed portion where the both sides of the positive electrode collector are exposed. This end having the positive electrode collector both-side exposed portion is positioned at an outer circumference when a rolled electrode body is formed.

Next, a negative electrode was prepared as follows.

Firstly, a negative electrode composite agent slurry was prepared in the same way as Example 1, and this negative electrode composite slurry was uniformly applied to both sides of a negative electrode collector and dried to form a negative electrode active material layer.

When the negative electrode composite agent was applied to the negative electrode collector, both side of an end portion of the negative electrode collector were left un-coated so as to serve as the negative electrode collector both-side exposed portion. This negative electrode collector both-side exposed portion is to be positioned at an outer circumference when the electrode is rolled into a rolled electrode body.

The negative electrode collector having the negative electrode composite agent layers was dried and pressed by a roll press to obtain a negative electrode sheet.

Next, a gel electrolyte layer was formed on the negative electrode sheet as follows. The electrolytic solution prepared in the same way as Example 1 was uniformly applied to both sides of the negative electrode sheet and dried to eliminate tetrahydrofuran. Thus, a gel electrolyte layer having a thickness of 12.5 μm was formed on the negative electrode sheet.

The negative electrode sheet having the gel electrolyte layers was cut into a strip. The gel electrolyte layer and the negative electrode active material layer were removed from a lead welding portion and a nickel lead was welded to that portion to serve as a negative electrode terminal. Thus, the negative electrode was complete.

The negative electrode thus obtained has at its one end in the longitudinal direction the negative electrode collector both-side exposed portion where the both surfaces of the negative electrode collector are exposed. This end having the negative electrode collector both-side exposed portion is positioned at an outer circumference when a rolled electrode body is formed.

A gel electrolyte cell was completed in the same way as Example 1 using the positive electrode and the negative electrode thus prepared.

In the rolled electrode body of the gel electrolyte cell, the positive electrode collector both-side exposed portion and the negative electrode collector both-side exposed portion cover the outer circumference of the rolled electrode body via gel

electrolyte layer by one turn or more.

[Comparative Example]

A gel electrolyte cell was prepared in the same way as Example 1 except for that the entire positive electrode collector was coated by the positive electrode composite agent without leaving no un-coated portion and the entire negative electrode collector was coated by the negative electrode composite agent without leaving no un-coated portion.

The gel electrolyte cells thus prepared were subjected to a collapse test. It should be noted that the gel electrolyte cells obtained had energy density of 250 Wh/l.

Firstly, each of the cells is charged up to 4.2 V with a constant current under the 0.2C current condition and then discharged with a constant voltage and cut at a predetermined current value.

Each of the charged cells was placed on a heat insulating material and subjected to an external force to short-circuit the cell. The maximum temperature of the casing film surface was measured.

The collapse test was performed for 5 samples per each example and the average value of the maximum temperature of the casing film surface in the 5 samples was calculated. The results are shown in Table 1.

[Table 1]

	Max. temperature of casing film (°C)
Example 1	110
Example 2	90
Example 3	75
Example 4	105
Comparative Example	140

As is clear from Table 1, in the cells of Examples 1 to 4 having the electrode collector exposed portion, the maximum temperature of the casing film at collapse is suppressed to a low temperature as compared to the cell of Comparative example 1.

This can be explained as follows. When a cell is collapsed by a pressure, in the beginning, short-circuit is caused in the electrode collector exposed portion at the outermost circumference of the rolled electrode body, which diffuses the heat generated, enabling to suppress the affect to the electrode active material layer to a minimum degree.

As has been described above, in the solid electrolyte cell according to the present invention, when the cell is pushed to be collapsed, initially, a short-circuit is caused in the electrode collector exposed portion, diffusing the heat, and accordingly, the electrode active material layer is hardly affected. Thus, it is possible to suppress heat generation and smoke generation.

Moreover, in the non-aqueous electrolyte cell according to the present

invention, the electrode collector exposed portion covers the outer circumference of the rolled electrode body by one turn or more. Accordingly, it is possible to suppress generation of heat and smoke when the cell is pushed to be collapsed.

Consequently, the present invention can realize a solid electrolyte cell capable of suppressing a cell damage and affect to the environment and having an excellent reliability.

What is Claimed is:

1. A solid electrolyte cell comprising a rolled electrode body consisting of a positive electrode having a strip electrode collector whose both sides are coated with a positive electrode active material layer and a negative electrode having a strip negative electrode collector whose both sides are coated with a negative electrode active material layer, which positive electrode and negative electrode are layered via a solid electrolyte layer and rolled in the longitudinal direction, wherein

said rolled electrodes have a collector one-side exposed portion at their one end in the longitudinal direction to be positioned at the outermost circumference and the collector one-side exposed portion covers the outer circumference of said rolled electrode body by one turn one more.

2. The solid electrolyte cell as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said solid electrolyte layer contains a swelling solvent and gelled.

3. The solid electrolyte cell as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said collector one-side exposed portion has a collector both-side exposed portion where both sides of the collector are exposed, and

said collector both-side exposed portion covers the outer circumference of said collector one-side exposed portion by one turn or more.

4. The solid electrolyte cell as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said rolled electrodes have a collector one-side exposed portion at one end in the longitudinal direction of the electrodes to be positioned at the innermost circumference and said collector one-side exposed portion covers the inner circumference of said rolled electrode body by one turn or more.

5. The solid electrolyte cell as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said positive electrode has a positive electrode collector both-side exposed portion at one end in the longitudinal direction,

said negative electrode having a negative electrode collector both-side exposed portion at one end in the longitudinal direction, and

said positive electrode collector both-side exposed portion and said negative electrode collector both-side exposed portion, sandwiching the solid electrolyte layer, covering the outer circumference of said rolled electrode body by one turn one more.

Abstract

A positive electrode has a strip electrode collector whose both sides are coated with a positive electrode active material layer and a negative electrode has a strip negative electrode collector whose both sides are coated with a negative electrode active material layer. The positive electrode and the negative electrode are layered via a solid electrolyte layer and rolled in the longitudinal direction into a rolled electrode body of a cell. The electrodes have a collector one-side exposed portion at their one end in the longitudinal direction to be positioned at the outermost circumference and the collector one-side exposed portion covers the outer circumference of the rolled electrode body by one turn one more. This configuration can minimize a damage which may be caused when the cell is pushed to be collapsed.

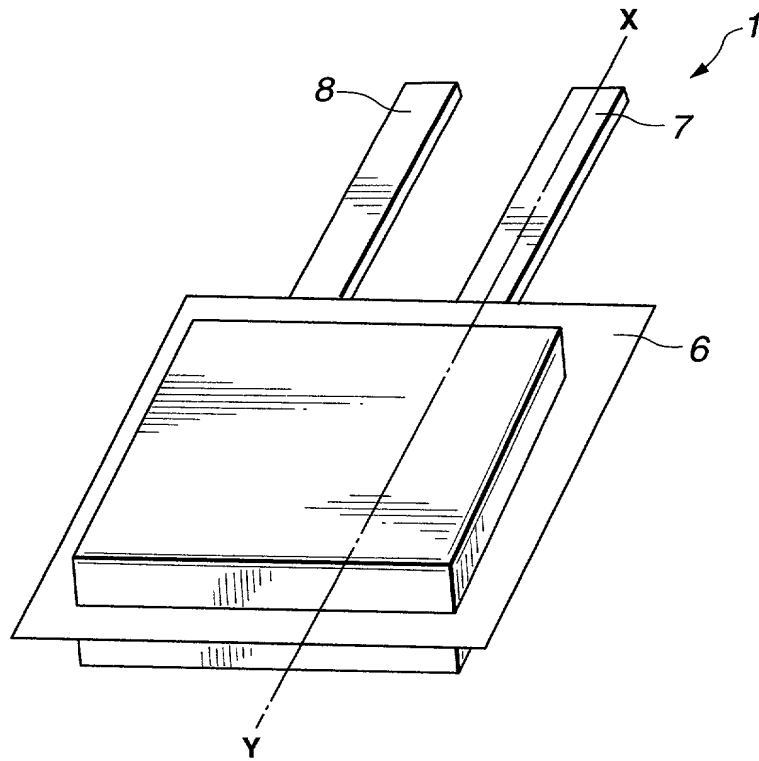


FIG.1

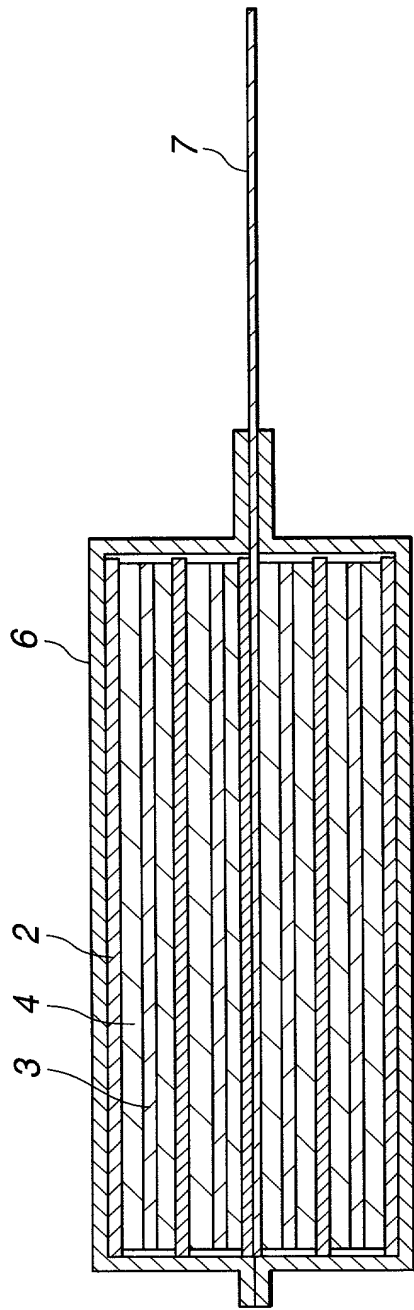


FIG.2

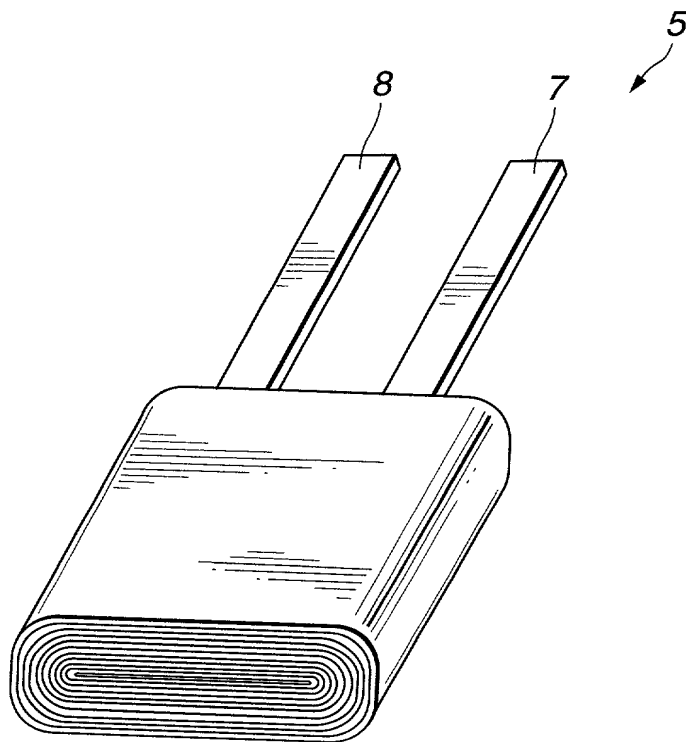


FIG.3

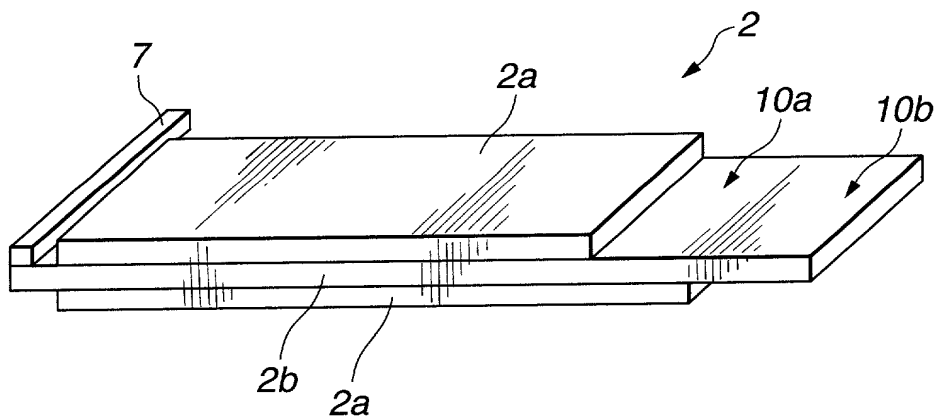


FIG. 4

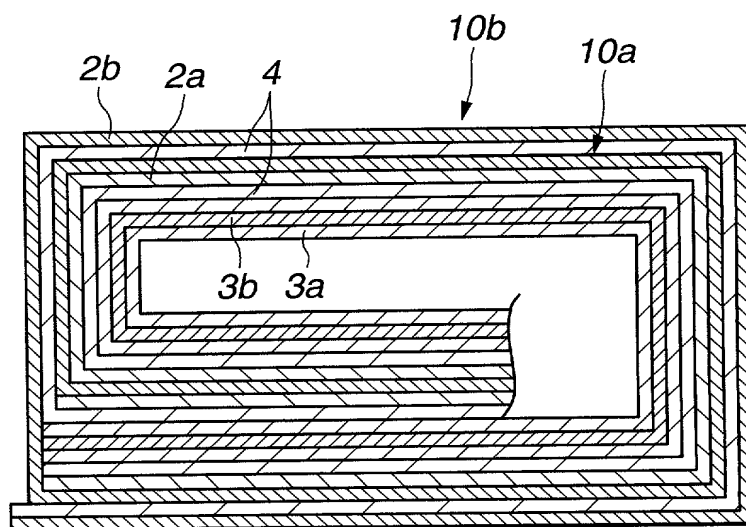


FIG. 5

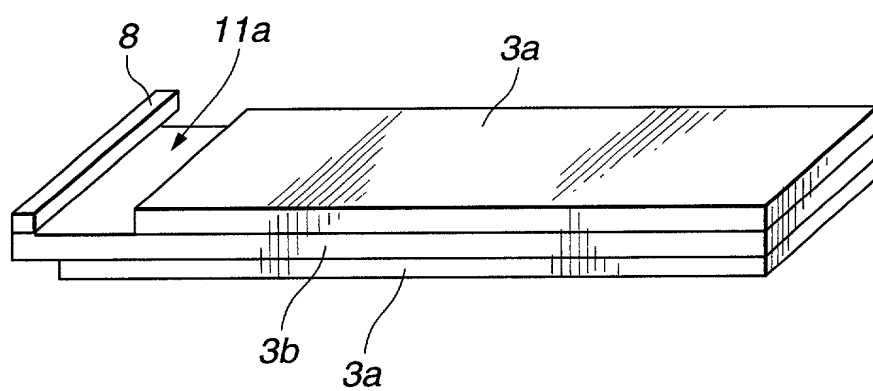


FIG.6

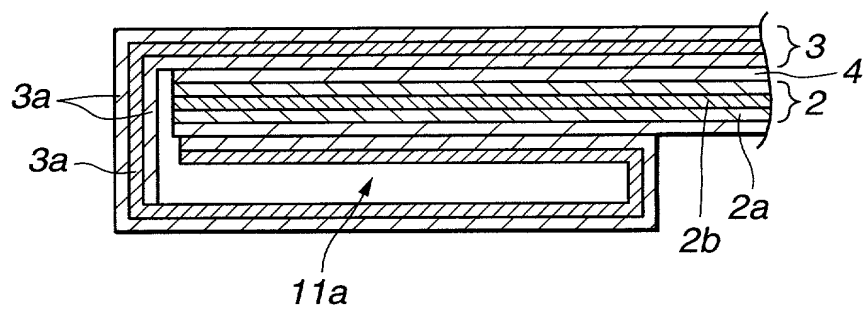


FIG.7

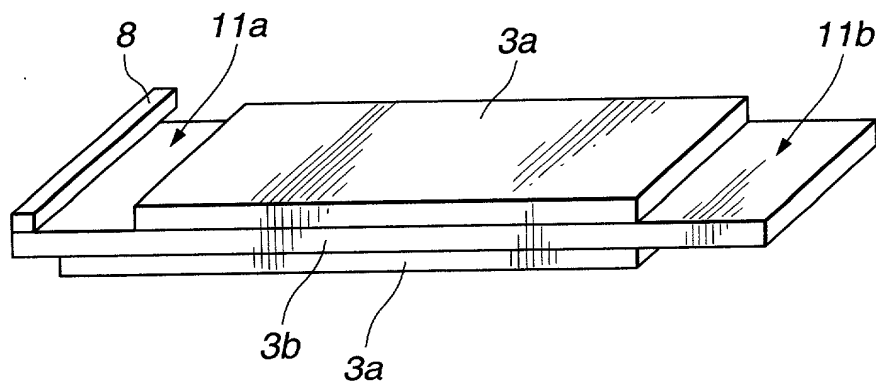


FIG.8

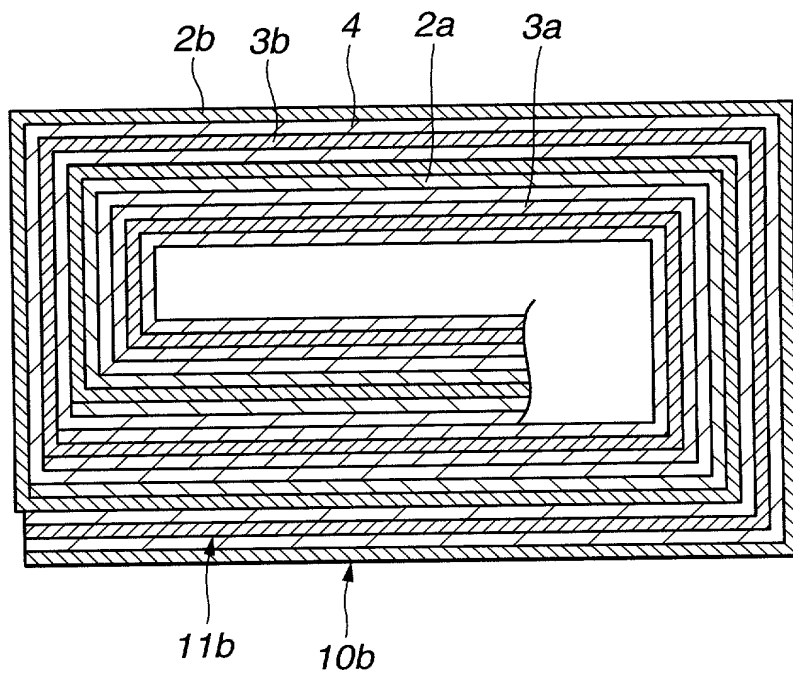


FIG.9

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

"SOLID ELECTROLYTE CELL"

Case No, 09792909-0430 the specification of which

(check one) ☒ is attached hereto
☐ was filed on _____, as
Application Serial No. _____,
and was amended on _____
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent Office all information which is known to me to be material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations. 1.56¹

I do not know and do not believe this invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my or our invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, and I believe that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application, and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States of America prior to this application by me or my legal representatives or assigns, except as identified below:

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below:

Prior Foreign Application(s)
Number

Country

Date

JP11-279789

Japan

September 30, 1999

and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the above listed application on which priority is claimed:

¹ (b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

(1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a *prima facie* case of unpatentability of a claim; or

(2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the application takes in:

(i) opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or

(ii) asserting an argument of patentability.

A *prima facie* case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden of proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

Prior Foreign Application(s)
Number

Country

Date

If no priority is claimed, I have identified all foreign patent applications filed prior to this application:

Prior Foreign Application(s)
Number

Country

Date

And I hereby appoint Joseph A. Mahoney (Reg. No. 38,956), Howard B. Rockman (Reg. No. 22,190), Jordan A. Sigale, (Reg. No. 39,028), Michael A. Molano (Reg. No. 39,777), Michael L. Kiklis (Reg. No. 38,939), Janelle D. Strode (Reg. No. 34,738), Kevin W. Guynn (Reg. No. 29,972), David R. Metzger (Reg. No. 32,919), Jennifer Hammond (Reg. No. 41,814), Lana Knedlik (Reg. No. 42,748), John F. Griffith (Reg. No. 44,137), Marina Saito (Reg. No. 42,121), Alison P. Schwartz (Reg. No. 43,863), Christopher P. Rauch (Reg. No. 45,034), Francisco Rubio-Campos (Reg. No. 45,358), Brian J. Gill (Reg. No. 46,727) and Shashank S. Upadbye, all members of the firm of Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal

Telephone 312/876-0200 Ext. 2578

my attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and direct that all correspondence be forwarded to:

SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL
80th Floor – Sears Tower
233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole or first inventor GORO SHIBAMOTO

Inventor's signature _____ Date _____
Residence Kanagawa Japan
Citizenship Japan
Post Office Address c/o Sony Corporation, 7-35, Kitashinagawa 6-chome
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141, Japan

Full name of second inventor _____

Inventor's signature _____ Date _____
Residence _____
Citizenship _____
Post Office Address _____

Full name of third inventor _____

Inventor's signature _____ Date _____
Residence _____
Citizenship _____
Post Office Address _____